

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A tube retainer comprising:
a tube having a retention groove formed in an external surface, adjacent an open end, of said tube, and
a holding clamp adapted to engage said retention groove.
2. (currently amended) A tube retainer as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the retention groove is annular.
3. (currently amended) A tube retainer as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the holding clamp is a flat plate having a slot formed therein for engaging the retention groove.
4. (currently amended) A tube retainer as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim 3, wherein the slot is open ended such that it is formed from the peripheral edge of the flat plate.
5. (currently amended) A tube retainer as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the tube further comprises a second seal groove formed in the external surface thereof interposed between the retention groove and the open end of the tube, wherein the sealing groove is adapted to receive sealing means.
6. (currently amended) A tube retainer as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim 5, wherein the sealing means is an O-ring.
7. (currently amended) A tube retainer as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said holding clamp is attached to a device, said device having an inlet/outlet port therein for receiving said tube.
8. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a tube retainer[,] as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim 1, comprising the steps of:

providing a tube;
forming a retention groove in the external surface of said tube, adjacent
the open end of said tube; and
providing a flat plate and forming a slot in said flat plate to form a
clamping plate.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~Claim 7~~ claim 8, comprising a further step
of:

forming a second seal groove in the external surface of the tube, said
second seal groove being formed such that it is suitable for receiving sealing means.

10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~Claim 8~~ claim 9, whereby the second
sealing groove is formed in the external surface of the tube between the retention groove
and the adjacent open end of the tube.

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~Claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, whereby at least
one of the retention groove and second seal groove is formed in the external surface by
rolling a groove therein.

12. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~Claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, whereby at least
one of the retention groove and second seal groove is formed in the external surface by
cutting a groove therein.

13. (currently amended) A method of retaining a tube to engage a device comprising:
forming a retention groove adjacent to an end of the tube;
forming a slot in a holding clamp to engage said annular retention groove;
and
attaching said holding clamp with the tube to the device.

14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim 12, whereby the retention
groove is annular.

15. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~Claims 12 and 13~~ claim 12, further comprising forming a second seal groove between said retention groove and said end of said tube for receiving sealing means.
16. (new) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said slot extends from an aperture formed in said flat plate.
17. (new) A method as claimed in claim 13, whereby the retention groove is annular.
18. (new) A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:
forming a second seal groove between said retention groove and said end of said tube for receiving sealing means.